

### **REMARKS**

In the Office Action mailed on June 9, 2011, Claims 11, 13, 15-17, 19 and 20 are pending in the Application. Claims 11, 13, 15-17, 19 and 20 are rejected. Claims 11, 13, 15-17, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable based on U.S. Patent No. 6,220,569 (Kelly) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,969,629 (Athanassiu).

Claim 11 is amended by this response. Claims 15, 17, 19, and 20 are canceled. Support for the amendments may be found in the published Specification at least in paragraph [0017] and in canceled Claim 15. No new matter is being introduced by way of the amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

In response to the rejections, Applicants amend the claims to further distinguish the claims and to expedite prosecution of this Application. In particular, amended Claim 11 is patentable over the combination of the cited references at least because the combination of the cited references does not teach or suggest each and every element of the limitations as recited in amended Claim 11. For example, the combination of the cited references does not disclose or suggest "said second guide spring biasing said plunger in said closed position" as recited in amended Claim 11. In contrast to the above limitation, Athanassiu disclosed device uses the first guide spring to bias the plunger in a closed position (*see* Athanassiu, col. 5, lines 2-5). Thus, based at least on this distinction, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 11 is patentable over the combination of the cited references.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully assert that the combination of Kelly and Athanassiu does not disclose or suggest the first guide spring having two blind flat bottom openings as recited in amended Claim 11. The first guide spring is secured to the plunger distal end via two spot welds located at the two blind flat bottom openings. There are several advantages to Applicants' claimed first guide spring. For example, an advantage of the first guide spring having two blind flat bottom openings is that it provides a thinner section through which to weld (*see* paragraph [0017]). Therefore, the power required to perform the weld is reduced. *Id.* Additionally, the heat-affected zone around the weld is reduced. *Id.* Further, the two blind flat bottom openings keeps the first guide spring from losing its planarity during welding.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above features and advantages of Claim 11 clearly distinguish the claimed invention from the combination of the cited references. Therefore, for at

least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 11 is patentable over the combination of the cited references.

At least by virtue of their dependency on Claim 11, Claims 13 and 16 are also patentable over the combination of the cited references. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections to Claims 11, 13, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the forgoing reasons, each of the claims in the application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection and to pass the application to issue.

If the Examiner feels a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner. Any communication initiated by this paragraph should be deemed an Applicant-Initiated Interview.

In addition, if any additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the same to Deposit Account 19-3140 under Order No. 11000054-0033 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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